



## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the House Committee of Natural Resources, Great Lakes, Land Use, and Environment

From: Doug Roberts, Jr., Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs

Subject: Senate Bill 79 - Local Option for Recycling

Date: June 2, 2005

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The purpose of this memo is to inform you of the Michigan Chamber's **support** of **Senate Bill 79 (S-3)** as approved by the Michigan Senate. This bill would allow local units of government, upon a vote of the people, to levy a \$50 per year recycling surcharge on residents and commercial businesses. Members of the Michigan Chamber believe this is an affordable way to improve recycling in Michigan.

### Chamber Legislative Priorities:

The 2005-06 legislative priorities approved by the Michigan Chamber Board of Directors included the following statement on recycling: "Chamber members advocate allowing local communities to decide on reasonable local funding methods to support local recycling and waste reduction efforts including revisions to the Urban Cooperation Act." SB 79 is consistent with Chamber board policy.

### Local Option Makes Sense:

Senate Bill 79 allows counties that wish to start or expand recycling, through a vote of the people, to levy a \$50 per year fee on households and businesses for recycling. Current law allows for up to \$25 a year on residents only. SB 79 doubles the existing charge plus expands the base to include commercial businesses. This additional tool would help county governments enhance and improve their recycling programs.

We applaud Senator McManus for developing this common sense low-cost way to improve recycling rates in Michigan. The Michigan Chamber asks you to support **Senate Bill 79 (S-3)** as approved by the Michigan Senate. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Rich Studley at (517) 371-2100.